

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:662
ANSWERED ON:13.05.2002
DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND
T.T.V. DHINAKARAN

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that over 10,000 hectares of forest land is being diverted for non-forest use annually in the country;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect the forest land;
- (c) whether the loss of/reduction in wildlife has been reported due to the said diversion of forest land; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been promulgated to regulate the diversion of forest lands for site-specific projects only.
- (c) and (d) While allowing such diversion, care is taken to ensure that it does not have any significant impact on the fragmentation of habitat or its qualitative degradation, which would adversely affect the wildlife population.